

Forfarshire
Cricket Club

1924

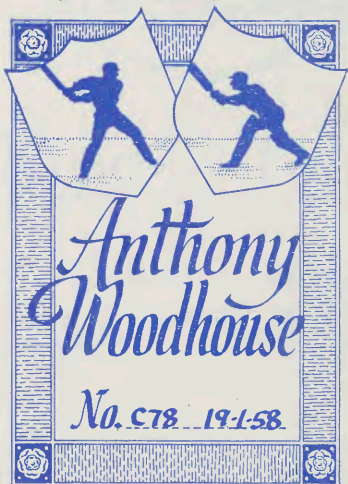


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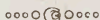
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BARRIE'S



Forfarshire Cricket Club.



For some years previous to the formation of the Forfarshire Cricket Club it was felt that until a proper organisation was formed of county cricketers, Dundee at least could not hope to contend against clubs who had already made a name for themselves. Although many good players were to be found following the game week by week in various combinations, no proper idea could be formulated as to their abilities in higher circles.

This state of matters might have continued long enough, but towards the beginning of 1880, Mr. G. M. Cox, who was looked upon as the leading cricketer in the district, and who had time and again assisted Perthshire, along with Mr. W. N. Machan, Mr. F. Maitland Dougall, Mr. J. L. Gordon, Mr. C. E. Todd, Mr. A. Gordon set to work, and before the opening of season 1880, the Forfarshire club was thoroughly set agoing, with their headquarters at Forthill. The Club entered upon their first engagement against Glenalmond College, who brought down two live professionals to oppose the newly constituted club, and for reference sake we give the names and scores of the players who took part in the initial game.

OF SCOT

FORFARSHIRE'S FIRST GAME.

FORFARSHIRE.				
F. Maitland Dougall, b. Clegg	..	..	..	23
A. Speed, b. Clegg	..	..	..	4
A. Lowson, c. Cardno, b. Clegg	..	..	..	2
H. Hill, c. Aitken, b. Brooke	..	..	..	4
J. Gordon, c. Aitken, b. Clegg	..	..	..	6
G. M. Cox, run out	..	..	..	6
J. C. Cox, b. Clegg	..	..	..	3
C. E. Todd, b. N. Cuthbertson	..	..	..	10
S. Hindmarsh, c. Cuthbertson, b. Clegg	..	..	..	6
W. S. Buchanan, b. Cuthbertson	..	..	..	0
W. Miller, not out	..	..	..	5
Extras	..	..	..	17
				Total 86

GLENALMOND.				
Peel (prof.), hit wicket, b. Todd	..	..	..	25
N. W. Cuthbertson, run out	..	..	..	4
G. T. Brooke, b. Speed	..	..	..	2
J. C. Aitken, b. Lowson	..	..	..	14
C. Cuthbertson, c. Hindmarsh, b. Lowson	..	..	..	17
Clegg (prof.), c. Lowson, b. Gordon	..	..	..	0
J. R. Forrester, b. Gordon	..	..	..	6
J. R. Cardno, c. G. M. Cox, b. Hindmarsh	..	..	..	10
Rev. J. W. Green, b. Gordon	..	..	..	1
A. V. Watson, c. G. M. Cox, b. Lowson	..	..	..	6
A. W. Robertson, not out	..	..	..	8
Extras	..	..	..	17
				Total 110

Although having to suffer the pangs of defeat, Mr. G. M. Cox and his men never looked backwards, and slowly but gradually they began to assert themselves as a power in the district. The fact that Perthshire, who had for years been tackling the cream of Scottish cricket at this time, willingly agreed to cross swords with their neighbouring county

was only in keeping with their other actions relative to cricket matters, and the first Inter-County, which is still the tit-bit of Scottish cricket, was played at Forthill in June of that year. As was expected, Perthshire won that game somewhat easily, and here again, the names of those who figured in the first Inter-county might be interesting.

PERTHSHIRE.

H. H. Greig, b. Keeping	..	..	..	..	..	35
D. Wood, b. Keeping	..	..	..	..	..	7
G. H. Bonar, b. J. Gordon	..	..	..	..	..	18
R. Halley, c. J. Gordon, b. A. Gordon	..	..	..	..	..	10
P. Henry, c. and b. Keeping	..	..	..	..	..	43
A. S. Leitch, b. Keeping	..	..	..	..	..	1
Kaye (prof.) b. Speed	..	..	..	..	..	3
George Bruce, c. G. M. Cox, b. Speed	..	..	..	..	..	3
J. A. Park, not out	..	..	..	..	..	2
A. Ramsay, b. Keeping	..	..	..	..	..	0
A. Thomson, b. Keeping	..	..	..	..	..	0
Extras	..	..	..	..	..	6

Total 128

FORFARSHIRE.

W. N. Machan, l.b.w., b. Kaye	..	..	..	..	..	0
G. M. Cox, b. Kaye	..	..	..	..	..	2
A. Gordon, not out	..	..	..	..	..	22
C. E. Todd, b. Kaye	..	..	..	..	..	0
A. Lowson, b. Kaye	..	..	..	..	..	0
M. Hill, b. Kaye	..	..	..	..	..	0
J. Gordon, b. Halley	..	..	..	..	..	0
Keeping (prof.) retired hurt	0
A. Speed, b. Kaye	0
J. C. Cox, b. Kaye	0
S. Hindmarsh, b. Halley	0
Extras	6

Total 30

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In the following year, Forfarshire were not without hope of strengthening their ranks, and as it turned out, Mr. W. R. Sharp made his first appearance, with his brother, Mr. R. B. Sharp, along with Messrs J. E. and R. H. Guild, Mr. R. Scroggie, Mr. D. R. Stewart, Mr. Dan Maclaren, Mr. F. G. Stewart, and Mr. C. Galbraith, the Club came rapidly to the front. Three Professionals had each a term with the Club—Keeping, Pullen and Todd—but it was left to Higgins to thoroughly put the team in working order, and soon the Forfarshire Club was holding its own with leading clubs in Scotland. Some splendid players then began to appear in the Club, all cricketers of undoubted ability—H. B. Gilroy C. E. Gilroy, P. M. Shepherd, H. C. Bett, T. H. B. Rorie, J. Welsh, J. N. Kyd, C. T. Godfrey, A. Heggie and others—and the Forfarshire Club came to be looked upon as one of Scotland's leading sides. In later years, when championship cricket was started and professionals introduced, cricket by Forfarshire was undoubtedly at its height. Many well known players gradually came to the Club's assistance, there being a big influx of Public School Players, a few of the better known being Fred Batchelor and Alex Lindsay, who have both added many fine performances to the records of the Club, J. E. McIntyre, G. K. Chalmers, W. S. Whyte, W. Stewart, G. M. Cleghorn, Andrew Fraser—all players well known to the public. Another great acquisition to the Club was the appearance of that great cricketer, R. G. Tait. This player was positively one of the most outstanding men in Scotland, and took part in almost twenty representative games for his country. He joined Forfarshire in 1909, and up to 1914 had scored fourteen centuries for his club. His highest scores for Forfarshire were 1910, *v.* Stirling County, 178 not out, and 1911, *v.* Clackmannan County, 178 not out, and twice he exceeded the century against Grange. "R. G." was truly a born cricketer, and his work on the field at cover point was a feature. R. G. Tait like many others when the call came for King and Country did his bit and bore the brunt, and has never again been able to take an active part in cricket, to which he added a peerless lustre. During the Great War, Forfarshire members to the number of over sixty joined up, and out of that number

thirteen laid down their lives, to whose honour and memory a splendid Memorial was erected in the pavilion. The names of the players who fell are still fresh in our memories : T. B. H. Rorie, J. B. Craik, G. B. Gilroy, G. C. Carmichael, C. A. Air, B. S. Sturrock, R. C. Cunningham, G. Y. Macfarlane (Brechin) E. A. Shepherd. These were names, old and young, who did much to carry Forfarshire to the forefront of Scottish cricket. It is questionable if Forfarshire have yet got over the result of the war, but with Public School boys again appearing the Club looks as if it had a bright future. The present leader of the playing side, Mr. Alan Fraser, who succeeded that great all round cricketer, Mr. Alex. Lindsay, is just the personality for the position, and his success as a leader is assured. Forfarshire has won the Scottish County Championship on various occasions and with prospects of the coming season being very bright, they look forward to a successful term. One of the greatest events of the long history of the Club will be the appearance of that magnificent cricket team, Yorkshire C. C., English County League Champions of Seasons 1922 and 1923. Their appearance ought to be an education in itself. Then Forthill will house its first International in July, when Scotland and Ireland will take part in a three days fixture. The Club possesses one of the prettiest enclosures in Scotland.

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R. M. LINDSAY



J. B. MEIKLE



G. M. CLEGHORN



C. W. TOSH



G. K. CHALMERS



J. CRIGHTON



W. M. BURKE



H. R. NICOLL



J. E. MCINTYRE



W. R. SHARP (Captain)

Mr W. R. Sharp

FORFARSHIRE'S GREATEST CRICKETER.

Mr. W. R. Sharp has acted as Captain of the Forfarshire Cricket Club for over forty years, and although he has now practically retired from the playing field, he will always be remembered as one of the greatest cricketers Scotland has ever produced. Mr. Sharp was always known off and on the field as a most gentlemanly and popular captain. When he was in his prime he devoted his time and energy, organising powers and cricketing abilities in a manner which has honoured and popularised his name not only throughout Scotland but also in many parts of England. Educated at the famous Clifton College, Bristol, he took his place in the Forfarshire side when Mr. G. M. Cox was captain of the Club. For many seasons Mr. Sharp was invariably found at the top of the batting averages. At one period of his splendid career, he developed into a first class bowler, and also a wicket-keeper above the ordinary. He stood out pre-eminently as the best all round player either in Forfarshire or the whole of Scotland. During his long captaincy of the Forfarshire Club, his selection always proved a huge success, those who played under him and those who opposed him all having unstinted admiration for the great generalship which he has at all times displayed. A born leader, thoroughly versed in every point of the game, Mr Sharp has won many a match by his splendid tact and generalship, and he has always had the happy knack of infusing much of his own enthusiasm into the members of the side. Mr. Sharp had some splendid individual achievements in his long and honourable career. In the year 1892, going in first for Forfarshire against Perthshire, he scored 113 from his own bat and was still undefeated at the close of the innings. He always shone in these particular games. In the year 1897, he played a dashing innings of 150 not out

against Perthshire on the North Inch, and had also that same year the honour of going right through the innings against Grange at Forthill, a very big feat in those days. In 1901 he scored 138 not out against Perthshire on the North Inch. Mr. Sharp put up a unique performance, playing his highest innings of his career, that of 192 not out against Edinburgh Academicals, on the day that the beautiful pavilion gifted by himself was opened. He has played for Scotland in many of her representative matches and in 1894 against the South Africans he had top score in the first innings. Mr. Sharp has topped the averages of the Forfarshire Club on sixteen occasions, has scored sixteen centuries for the Club, and in seven seasons his aggregate had exceeded 1000 runs. When at his best he stood head and shoulders above his fellows, and was in the opinion of many hard to beat in all Scotland. Truly a great batsman, always pretty to watch ; a fast scorer, his off play and late cutting were wonderful, and were always safe, finished and vigorous. In conjunction with Higgins, it may fairly be claimed that the pair made Forfarshire cricket what it is to-day. Mr. Sharp, always ready to play benefit games in aid of any sort of charity, has done much to brighten up the efforts of many enthusiastic lesser lights in the game. His generous gifts to the Forfarshire Club are numerous, amongst these being the magnificent pavilion and the delightful tearoom at Forthill, while he has only quite recently added to these by presenting to the Club the entire enclosure. In the long history of the game, Mr. W. R. Sharp's name will never be forgotten—one of the best who ever played the game—his sportsmanship cannot be excelled to-day, and as captain of the Forfarshire Club his interest in its welfare will still be sustained.



P. HIGGINS



W. RINGROSE

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Professionals
of
Forfarshire
C.C.



G. CHAMBERS



C. P. BUCKENHAM



P. HIGGINS
Professional 1883-1915

Peter Higgins

PROFESSIONAL TO FORFARSHIRE C.C., 1883-1915.

Peter Higgins, who held the position of Professional for Forfarshire Cricket Club for 32 years, was undoubtedly one of the many cricketers whose name will ever live in Scottish cricket. His record of years of faithful service has never been eclipsed, and is not likely to be. It was in 1883 that he took up his duties with the Forfarshire club. His success was instantaneous, he went from strength to strength, and along with Mr. W. R. Sharp, became the bulwark of Forfarshire and the terror of her opponents, and in his early days his abilities both with bat and ball were worthy of the player he was. It was his bowling powers that brought him first into the limelight, and his success was phenomenal. Time and again in the club's important fixtures he would rise to the occasion in a manner which demonstrated that his whole heart was bent on bringing victory to his side. During his long and very honourable career, he put up some splendid figures both with bat and ball. The intense rivalry, which still exists between Perthshire and Forfarshire seemed to inspire Higgins, as never in all these memorable games he played in did he fail. Space only permits some of his many good achievements. As far back as 1886, when Perthshire were all out for 30 runs, he captured 7 wickets for 10 runs. In 1899, on the North Inch against Perthshire, he took 7 wickets for 7 runs—his best feat in these "Derby" games, taking into account the momentous occasion and the calibre of the oppositon. One of his best all round performances was against Montrose when he took 6 wickets for 1 run and scored 69 the same day. In 1903, he might be said to have placed all these performances in the shade, by sending

up no fewer than 64 deliveries (10.4 overs) against Arbroath United at Forthill, without giving away a single run, and placed no fewer than six wickets to his credit. Higgins was always Perthshire's fate. Here was a Perth man's views on him: "I tell ye this, if Forfar hadna Higgins, we'd knock spots off ye;" and then he admits that Perth players always funk against Higgins.

It can well be remembered on the afternoon Higgins took seven wickets for seven runs against Perthshire, friends rushed after him, admirers sought for him everywhere, his name was on everybody's lips, but Higgins had dodged up a secluded street, caught an early train and sought refuge at home. Bowling was his *forte*, but with the bat he was most dangerous. In 1887, he scored 123 not out against Glenalmond. In 1899 he played a magnificent innings of 101 not out against Grange, and he had other very fine performances. Every one knew Higgins—he was an institution in himself, a man of steel—his endurance was extraordinary, and a better-hearted, kindlier fellow than Peter Higgins never played the game. He is representative of all that was best and brightest in Forfarshire Cricket, and it is questionable if his honourable record will ever be equalled.

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Forfarshire v. Perthshire

INTER-COUNTY MATCHES.

There is no fixture in the Scottish cricket world that creates more interest than the Inter-County meetings between Forfarshire and Perthshire, these meetings of the great rivals are always brimful of excitement and whether played at Forthill or the North Inch, the "Derby" days are worth going a long way to see, and besides the play itself the chaff round the ropes is always of a sporting nature.

It is now 43 seasons since these games were first played between the rival Counties. Forfarshire have the total of 23 wins to their credit while Perthshire claim 15 victories. There was one tie, and 37 drawn games. The highest score made by either side was in 1904 by Forfarshire, 411 on the North Inch. Perthshire's highest score was singularly in the same match, that of 355 for 7 wickets when they closed. These scores were made in the time of the two day matches. Forfarshire's lowest score was the first game played in 1880, when they were all out for 30 runs. Perthshire's lowest score was in 1884 when they were all out for 23. The tie in 1900 of 91 each was one of the most exciting finishes ever witnessed in these games. In 1886, the scores were phenomenally low, Forfarshire, 46, Perthshire, 41. Appended are the result of the whole series of these games.

PAST HISTORY.

The results of the games between the two counties from 1880 up to last season are as follows :—

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DATE.	PERTSHIRE.	FORFARSHIRE.
1923—	290 for 7	84 for 1
1923—	No play owing to rain.	
1922—	185	60 for 3
1922—	174	139 for 9
1921—	60 for 5	did not bat.
1921—	271 for 8	249 for 7
1919—	251 for 7	133 for 9
1919—	203 for 6	169
1914—	203	253
1913—	372	93
1913—	162	195
1912—	did not bat	135 for 7
1912—	308 for 4	177
1910—	73 for 3	179 for 3
1910—	148 for 8	did not bat
1909—	90 for 2	233 for 6
1909—	147 & 110 for 6	120 & 127 for 1
1908—	247	232 for 6
1908—	99 & 58	255
1907—July 6.	77	184
July 27.	197 & 103 for 3	235 & 64
1906—July 7.	221 for 8	312 for 8
July 27-28	112 & 173	234 & 52 for 7
1905—July 8.	217 for 7	270
July 28-29.	247	140 & 13 for 0
1904—July 2.	299	259 for 3
July 29-30.	355 f 7 & 72 f 2	411
1903—July 4.	64	298
„ 31-Ag. 1.	216	156 & 45 for 1
1902—July 5.	197	203 for 4
July 29-30.	94 & 231	148 & 122 for 9
1901—July 6.	181 for 3	255 for 8
July 26-27.	153 for 5	276 for 6
1900—July 7.	91	91
July 26-27.	211	65 for 3
1899—July 8.	88	264
July 28-29.	129 & 39	113 & 156

DATE.	PERTSHIRE.	FORFARSHIRE.
1898—July 22.	128 for 7	191
July 29-30.	85 & 167	92 & 83
1897—July 3.	105	117
July 30-31.	184 f 9 & 84 f 4	306
1896—July 4.	108	166
„ 31-Aug. 1.	122 & 58	99 & 73 for 8
1895—July 6.	125	177
July 27.	45 for 3	did not bat
1894—July 7.	67	97 & 209 for 8
Aug 6.	124	101
1893—July 1.	70 & 93 for 8	114
Aug. 19.	102	123 for 5
1892—July 2.	160 for 7	236 for 6
Aug. 6.	205	71
1891—July 4.	95	91
Aug. 8.	85	119
1890—July 5.	117	32 & 54 for 6
Aug. 9.	63 & 55 for 4	34
1889—July 6.	121 for 8	152
Aug. 3.	150 for 6	72 for 6
1888—July 7.	56 & 43 for 2	74
Aug. 4.	109	74
July 23.	112 for 2	139
1886—July 4.	30	79 & 124 for 5
May 31.	41 & 72 for 3	46
July 25.	53 & 42 for 3	111
1884—June 14.	65 for 6	181
July 26.	23	97
1883—June 9.	99	86
July 28.	127	10 for 2
1882—June 17.	215	54
July 22.	95	74 for 5
1881—June 28.	174	103 for 9
Aug. 13	134	141
1880—June 26	128	30

The first-mentioned match in each year was played at Forthill and the second on the North Inch. There was no match in 1911 owing to dispute.



FORFARSHIRE CRICKET CLUB.



FORTHILL XI.

Some Records of Forfarshire Club and Players

The highest score made by a Forfarshire player at Forthill is 192 not out by W. R. Sharp against Edinburgh Academicals.

The late D. S. Cooper (of Cupar) holds the record individual score for Forthill, 207 not out for Cupar against Forfarshire, but latterly he qualified to play for Forfarshire.

Peter Higgins has the best bowling analysis for Forthill, taking 6 wickets for 0 runs against Arbroath United.

Alex. Lindsay performed the "hat trick" against Aberdeenshire at Forthill in 1905, while J. H. Melville also had this honour at Aberdeen in 1923.

Forfarshire's highest score is 422 for 5 wickets against Fifeshire at Forthill; Fifeshire were all out for 47.

J. A. Kyd and R. G. Tait hold the record first wicket partnership for Forfarshire at Forthill, 335 for no wickets—J. A. Kyd 151 not out, R. G. Tait not out 178, against Stirling County, who were all out, 103.

In 1907 the game between Forfarshire and Arbroath United was a tie, 102 each.

Ringrose's best performance with the ball for Forfarshire against Perthshire was 7 for 19 in 1907.

In the first Counties Championship match played against Aberdeenshire at Forthill A. Lindsay scored 158 not out, J. E. McIntyre, 112.

TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE FORFARSHIRE CRICKET CLUB
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR KING
AND COUNTRY 1914-1919

G/A AIR

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MEMORIAL TABLET AT FORTHILL

R. G. Tait's average for Forfarshire in County games in 1911 was 60.17

In season 1892, W. R. Sharp was at the head of both batting and bowling averages of the club. Batting 31.11, Bowling, 9.36.

Joe Winyard who was one of Forfarshire's professionals took 10 wickets for 36 runs against Fifeshire.

Two Forfarshire players hold the record of highest scores in the Inter-County games with Perthshire.

W. R. Sharp, 150 not out in 1897. Fred Batchelor, 142 in 1904.

Alan Fraser, who leads the Forfarshire team at the present time is a native of Perthshire, along with Andrew Fraser, John Russell and Fred Smith. All four have assisted both Counties.

In season 1907, Forfarshire dismissed Cupar for 18, Ringrose 6 for 10 and Chambers 4 for 2, and again in 1920, they dismissed the same club for 20. Andrew Fraser, 6 for 12, J. H. Melville, 2 for 4 were the bowlers.

G. K. Chalmers, the Forfarshire wicket-keeper was the best in Scotland for many seasons and played in many International games for his Country.

In a score of 105 against Glenalmond, W. S. Whyte had no fewer than eight six hits and four fours.

Playing for the Scottish Counties XI against Yorkshire at Perth in 1910, Alex. Lindsay scored 40, and G. K. Chalmers, 36.

C. P. Buckenham, Forfarshire's professional for 1924, has played both as an amateur and professional for the Club.

J. K. Whitehead, who was responsible for the tie with Perthshire in 1900, when he bowled R. Macgregor Mitchell, is located in South Africa.

Forfarshire last won the County Championship in 1920, when they never lost a match in the Competition.

John Russell's first century for Forfarshire was in 1920 against Aberdeenshire at Aberdeen, 112.

D. C. Stevenson who has captained the Stirling County team for two seasons assisted Forfarshire in six games the season he left for Stirling. His batting average was 55.40.

In season 1921, Andrew Fraser took 30 wickets in County Championship games at an average of 9.87 per wicket.

The playing of a two days fixture between Forfarshire and Perthshire first took place in 1896, and was discontinued in 1907.



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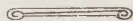
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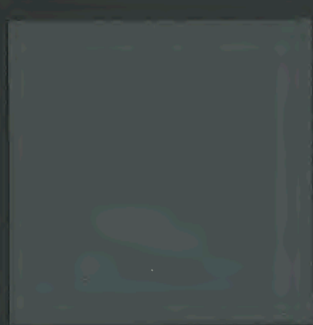
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